

FANS, BASEBALL MAD, WILL CROWD LEE PARK TO GREET U. S. LEAGUE

Washington and Richmond Will Officially Open Local Season This Afternoon Before Tremendous Crowd—Newnam and Brown Both Confident of Victory.

BY GUS MALBERG.

Unless hard luck of the good, old-fashioned variety, in the nature of Mr. Weatherman, interferes, the Washington and Richmond clubs of the United States League will pry the lid off the season of 1912 and begin the race for a pennant in this newest bidder for popular favor in the realm of baseball this afternoon at 1:15 o'clock in Lee Park, before a record-breaking crowd of enthusiasts.

Long before Umpire Bill Massie gives the word a struggling, happy line of fans will begin the march westward in anticipation of better baseball for Richmond. Jostling, crowding, laughing, playing, fans and members of the gentler sex who attend the games will listen to music from Kessner's band, which has been especially engaged to enliven the few dull moments before the call to battle is given. During many long, weary months the baseball public of Richmond has awaited the opening day of the new league. Even the most hopeful of times became doubting Thomases and could not be convinced that this new organization would survive the many harsh things said about it.

Now opening day is here. Two teams are ready to take the field in Richmond and six other teams in the other cities of the circuit and do their best to bring the gonfalon to the city represented. George Brown, manager of the Washington club, and Al Newnam, manager of the Richmond club, announce themselves ready. The preliminary season of training has been as hard as the real thing. Few are the sore arms and unbounded is the enthusiasm of the men.

In many cities of the circuit the opening means less than it does to Richmond. Though interest in the success of the league is great in all of the cities, and there will be no lack of support in any of them, to Richmond the birth of the United States League spells Richmond's graduation from the minor league class into prospective major league circles. It is not intended to leave the impression that the United States League teams as at present composed are of major league caliber. The fans need not expect this much at the beginning. Each of the eight clubs is fast, far faster than Class C organizations, but it will take some little time to recruit the clubs up to the standard set by the magnates.

However, even at this writing, when ball players and ball parks have been put together in record-breaking time, the teams will measure up to the standard of the best there is in minor league baseball. No expense has been spared. No effort has been lacking. Every manager and every owner in the league has worked toward making the opening a success, and they feel that they have succeeded—succeeded far in excess of what the most optimistic had hoped.

It is no small task to get together eight good ball teams. Ball players are not as plentiful as they once were. Also ball players are skeptical. They refuse to believe that the United States League was more than a myth. Even in Richmond some people whose duty it should have been to help the new organization, to get on its feet have taken every opportunity

to shove it backward. Despite all of this the new league is here, and it is here to stay, provided, of course, that the people of Richmond like the goods offered.

Al Newnam has never been much of a talker, but he is satisfied with his club, which is gratifying to any one who knows Newnam. Even such an admission from him means a whole lot. For Newnam to be satisfied means that his club is in prime shape and ready to get started with the drop of the bat. George Brown, of the Washington club, believes that he has a winner. The opposing batteries will probably be for Richmond Blue and Taylor. Brown will likely use Frank Pfeffer and Tobin as his combination. The lineup of the two teams appears at the head of this column. Many familiar names will be found. Max Seybold is one of Richmond's products, and he is lighter, says he is faster, can hit harder and last longer than he could in the days when he helped make the Athletics famous.

Pat Bohannon at first will be remembered as a member of the Pirates a few years ago. When his arm went a little bad he started out as an infielder, and made Louisville a first-class initial sacker. Bill Prout will be a hit. So will Horace McFarland and Tom O'Hare. Fritz Hoffman, and Pat Al Newman. It looks like a formidable lineup.

Over on the opposing side will be found George Brown, one of the best outfielders in the game, Gus Darden, another local product, having graduated from Richmond to the big top. Frank Pfeffer, who is some finger, and others, some veterans and some youngsters, but all anxious and willing to show what they can do. It should be a great ball game, weather permitting, of course.

Chief Roster Snyder will start his parade at 2:30 o'clock. His squad with their buglers and drummers will parade the streets telling the few who might not know that Richmond's big ball club is about to start doing business. At the park they will begin the trouble which is to come to George Brown. Badges bearing the inscription "Richmond Rooters, United States League," have been freely distributed, and everybody will be properly tagged. It is going to be a gala day, with no apologies for the word gala. Every cent in Richmond will go to the park, and there will be room for as many as come out. The report that the park would accommodate but 2,200 people is absolutely incorrect. The grandstand alone will take care of that many, just as many as the Broad Street grandstand will hold, while the bleachers will seat approximately 4,500, making a total seating capacity of about 7,000.

Douglas Call had the honor of purchasing the first ticket to the park. He was at Sublett's when President Landgraf brought the tickets, and he bought No. 1. There were others who followed. Tickets are still on sale at all of the prominent stands in Richmond, notwithstanding efforts, rather strenuous efforts, to have them removed. Sinister and veiled innuendoes



BILL TAYLOR, Who will probably pitch opening game to-day at Lee Park.

on the part of the too ardent friends of the Virginia League mean nothing to the sport-loving public. This public wants baseball and wants it where it can get it best.

President John F. Albrecht, of the Washington club, will be one of the interested spectators. He will be the guest of President Landgraf. As stated before, Chief Snyder will toss the first ball, after which the battle will be on. The grounds are in excellent condition and everything is complete. Watch the crowd as it goes westward and get in line for the big day.

INFORMATION SHEET

FOR FANS WHO WILL GO TO LEE PARK FOR OPENING GAME TO-DAY.

GATES WILL OPEN PROMPTLY AT 2 O'CLOCK. ALL STREET CARS WILL GO TO LEE PARK, BEGINNING AT 2 O'CLOCK. GAME WILL BE CALLED AT 4:15 O'CLOCK. PROBABLE BATTERIES: RICHMOND, TAYLOR AND BLUE; WASHINGTON, PFEFFER AND TOBIN. UMPIRE, BILL MASSIE. TICKETS ARE ON SALE AT ALL IMPORTANT POINTS DOWNTOWN. SIX TICKET SELLERS WILL BE AT THE PARK TO TAKE CARE OF THOSE WHO FAILED TO SECURE TICKETS BEFOREHAND.

WHERE TEAMS PLAY.

PITTSBURGH VS. CLEVELAND, AT CLEVELAND. READING VS. NEW YORK, AT NEW YORK. CHICAGO VS. CINCINNATI, AT CHICAGO.

LINE-UP OF TEAMS.

Richmond—Prout, 2b. Bohannon, 1b. Hoffman, 3b. Blue, c. O'Hare, lf. Seybold, rf. Newnam, ss. McFarland, cf. Taylor, p.

Washington—C. Fallon, lf. Geary, ss. Dunderon, 2b. Farrick, 1b. Adler, 3b. Tobin, c. Browne, rf. Dowling, cf. Pfeffer, p.

BATTING RALLY STARTED BY REDS

Lavender Driven From Mound, and Run Made Also on Brown.

CHICAGO DEFEATED, 7 TO 2

Two Other Scheduled Games Postponed on Account of Rain.

Chicago, Ill., April 30.—Cincinnati started a batting rally in the eighth inning after two men were out, driving Lavender from the mound after tying the score, and then hitting Brown safely for a run, which put them in the lead. The final score was 7 to 2. Both teams played loose ball behind the pitcher's score.

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SIXTON WITH LYNCHBURG.

Former College Star Athlete Signs Shoemakers' Contract.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Lynchburg, Va., April 30.—John Sixton, who was regarded as one of the best pitchers in the Virginia League in 1910, has signed a 1912 contract with the Shoemakers, and he will be seen in the game as soon as he can get himself in playing condition.

Sixton did not report to the team last spring after he had a trial with the Birmingham team, in the Southern League, but played independent ball in that city, where he was employed.

Sixton came here Saturday, and after several conferences with President Wilkinson put his name to a Lynchburg contract.

Men who know baseball believe Sixton is destined to go higher after a season's work under Manager Stockdale, and his presence adds not a little strength to the local team.

ELEVEN INNINGS WITHOUT SCORE.

Harvard and Vermont Play Great Game at Cambridge.

Cambridge, Mass., April 30.—Harvard and Vermont played eleven innings of a scoreless tie to-day, the game being called on account of darkness. Both Malcolm and Pettit pitched effectively. Wisconsin's pitcher, who was caught with one hand, while on the run in deep center, a ball from Fletcher's bat that seemed good for a home run.

The score by innings: R. H. E.
Harvard 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Vermont 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Batteries—Pettit and Reeder, Malcolm and Mayforth. Time of game, 2:20. Umpire, Conroy.

At Macon—Mercer, 6; Wake Forest, 2.

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

At Baltimore—Baltimore-Rochester (two games)—Rain.

At Newark—Newark-Jersey City—Rain.

GEORGE COWAN IS NOW AT LIBERTY

George Cowan, one of the best minor league pitchers in the business, is back in Richmond, after having served with Charlie Shaffer and his Norfolk crew for several weeks. Cowan is of the opinion that he has been badly run down, and that he is not properly supplied with catching material. Cowan, who is a native of Norfolk, was not properly supplied with the windup reported. A cut in salary was suggested, but Cowan would not agree. He asked for time to consider the proposition, but before he could make answer Shaffer decided to let him out. This is Cowan's version.

Regardless of the merits of the case, there is now at liberty an excellent backstop. That he will soon tie on is certain. The only question is which club is going to avail itself of his services first. Cowan for a while was the Cola last season, and did mighty well with a club which had become disorganized.

fin to Riley, cut all chances of the locals to count in the last half of that round.

Both sides went out in order in the eighth, but Riley opened the twelfth with a clean single to right. Griffith bunted down the first base line, but Wolfe held the ball quickly and headed Riley at second in the great est play of the game. Bowen took care of Mac and got out struck out.

With two in the morgue in the local half of this round, Miller singled, but McComas grabbed Potts's fly, and the final round began. Griffith drew a pass and McComas bunted, but Miller threw Steve out at second in a fine play. Rogers caught McComas trying to steal, and it was well that he did, as a double steal and the side was retired with the single score.

In the eighth, with bases full, it looked as if W. & L. would catch up. So Stratton was sent in for Adams. Stewart was caught at home on a double steal and the side was retired with the single score.

Score by innings: R. H. E.
W. Virginia 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
W. L. 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Summary: Stolen bases—Cato, Bachman, Webster, Rafferty. Bases on balls—Off Adams, 2; off Tompkins, 2. Hit by pitched ball—By Stratton, 2; by Tompkins, 2. Struck out—By Adams, 4; by Stratton, 1; by Tompkins, 2.

Batteries: West Virginia—Adams, Stratton and Hay; W. & L.—Tompkins and Stewart. Umpire, Mr. Orth.

BERT BLUE, Who will catch the game to-day.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE

At Atlanta: Atlanta, 3; Memphis, 5.

At Birmingham: Birmingham, 0; Mobile, 9.

At New Orleans: New Orleans, 2; Montgomery, 5.

At Chattanooga: Chattanooga, 2; Nashville, 0 (first game); Chattanooga, 2; Nashville, 1 (second game).

News Leader Wins.

The News Leader baseball team defeated the Evening Journal team yesterday afternoon on the Bird Park diamond by a score of 3 to 2. The game only lasted four innings, being called on account of darkness. The batting for the News Leader were Delaney pitcher and Walt catcher. Journal, Brown pitcher, and Harzoff catcher.

DAY IN THE BIG LEAGUES

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

NATIONAL LEAGUE.
Chicago, 5; Cincinnati, 7.
New York-Boston, rain.
Philadelphia-Brooklyn, rain.
Other game not scheduled.

AMERICAN LEAGUE.
Boston, 6; Philadelphia, 1.
Detroit, 4; Chicago, 3 (ten innings).
St. Louis, 3; Cleveland, 8.
Washington-New York, rain.

STANDING OF THE CLUBS

Club	W.	L.	P.C.	Last Year
Cincinnati	10	3	.769	100
New York	8	3	.727	615
Boston	6	6	.500	332
Chicago	5	7	.417	600
Pittsburgh	5	7	.417	615
Philadelphia	4	6	.400	768
St. Louis	3	8	.385	303
Brooklyn	4	7	.364	286

Club	W.	L.	P.C.	Last Year
Chicago	10	4	.714	500
Boston	9	4	.692	462
Washington	7	5	.583	500
Philadelphia	7	6	.538	462
Cleveland	7	6	.538	375
Detroit	6	9	.400	867
St. Louis	5	9	.357	267
New York	2	10	.167	583

WHERE THEY PLAY TO-DAY

Brooklyn at Boston.
Philadelphia at New York.
Cincinnati at St. Louis.
Chicago at Pittsburgh.
New York at Philadelphia.
Boston at Washington.
Other games not scheduled.

COLTS LOSE GAME ON COSTLY ERRORS

In Rattling Thirteen-Inning Contest Newport News Wins by Score of 4 to 3.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Newport News, Va., April 30.—Jack Griffin's Boat Builders had revenge on Steve Griffin's Colts at Horwitz Park this afternoon, trimming them 3 to 2 in thirteen innings of about the fastest and most exciting baseball that could be imagined. Five hundred fans who braved the lowering clouds and

Virginia League

RESULTS YESTERDAY.
Richmond, 2; Newport News, 4 (thirteen innings).
Lynchburg, 4; Portsmouth, 3.
Danville, 5; Roanoke, 1.
Norfolk, 4; Petersburg, 3.

STANDING OF THE CLUBS.

Club	W.	L.	P.C.	Last Year
Petersburg	5	3	.625	250
Norfolk	5	4	.556	714
Richmond	5	5	.500	750
Roanoke	5	5	.500	375
Newport News	5	5	.500	375
Danville	4	4	.500	375
Portsmouth	4	5	.444	375
Lynchburg	3	5	.375	556

WHERE THEY PLAY TO-DAY.

Richmond at Newport News.
Petersburg at Norfolk.
Roanoke at Danville.
Portsmouth at Lynchburg.

the thirteenth, but Wolfe singled to left and Bowen rapped one over Matt's head for two sacks. Graft blocked off Wolfe at third, but McBride would not let the runner score. Tennant fanned, but Evans smashed one to left and the shortstop let the ball get through him. Wolfe counting with the deciding run. The score:

Newport News.

AB	H	O	A	E
Peters, rf.	6	1	2	0
Bates, 2b.	6	1	1	2
Wolfe, 1b.	6	1	1	2
Richmond, ss.	5	0	2	1
Bowen, 3b.	5	0	2	0
Tennant, cf.	6	1	1	0
McComas, 2b.	2	0	1	3
Evans, lf.	3	1	1	0
McDonnell, rf.	3	0	0	0
Morrissey, 2b.	3	0	0	0
Rogers, cf.	5	0	1	0
Miller, p.	5	0	1	0

Totals 47 3 10 35 19 2

Richmond.

AB	H	O	A	E
Griffin, 2b.	5	0	1	6
Bates, 2b.	4	0	1	4
McComas, ss.	5	0	2	0
Flournoy, cf.	5	0	2	0
Mattie, lf.	5	0	0	1
Burke, 3b.	5	0	0	1
Raley, 1b.	5	1	2	0
Griffin, 2b.	5	0	1	8
Mace, cf.	4	0	1	0
Verbut, p.	5	0	1	1

Totals 44 2 7 38 20 1

Two out when winning run scored. Score by innings: 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 4.

Summary: Two-base hits—Rogers, Tennant, Bowen, Burke, Stolen bases—Griffin, Verbut, Sacre, hits—Griffin, Mattie, Mace, Double play—Griffin to Raley, Struck out—By Miller, 6; by Verbut, 1; Base on balls—Off Miller, 4; off Verbut, 2. First on errors—Newport News, 10; Richmond, 2. First on errors—Newport News, 2; Richmond, 2. Umpire, Mr. McBride. Time of game, 2:12.

WEST VIRGINIA GETS REVENGE

Defeats Washington and Lee Team by Score of 8 to 6.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Lexington, Va., April 30.—The University of West Virginia came back to-day, taking a hotly contested game from Washington and Lee by the score of 8 to 6. Tompkins, for W. & L., allowed only one hit in the first four innings. In the fifth Lesley singled, drew a pop fly to pitcher, Adams singled and Cato got hit, filling the bases. Kidder's hit scored one, and with the bases full, again, McMinn knocked a slashing triple to center, which, together with singles by Keller and Bachman, netted six runs for the visitors. Dillie's triple added two more in the sixth.

Smith, the first man up for W. & L., was passed. Webster was safe on error. Rafferty's hit scoring Smith. In the second Tompkins and Smith each hit two-baggers, adding two runs, and one more was added each in the fifth and sixth.

In the eighth, with bases full, it looked as if W. & L. would catch up. So Stratton was sent in for Adams. Stewart was caught at home on a double steal and the side was retired with the single score.

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